

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 A-01 OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00

FAA-00 DOTE-00 HEW-02 EURE-00 SY-05 /097 W

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P R 071210Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3176

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

USEC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION BOYCOTTS AND PROTESTS
AGAINST GOS

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SUMMARY: FOREIGN TRADE UNION PROTESTS AGAINST GOS HAVE BEEN

VIEWED AS RELATIVE FAILURES BY GENERAL PUBLIC, AFRONT TO NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY BY GOVT-CONTROLLED SSO, EVIDENCE OF CONCRETE FOREIGN TRADE UNION SUPPORT BY DEMOCRATIC UGT AND USO (ALTHOUGH THEY FEAR CAMPAIGN MAY GO TOO FAR), AND AS SOMETHING TO CASH IN ON BY COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORKERS COMMISSIONS. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE STRIKE ACTIVITY INSIDE SPAIN EXCEPT FOR LAST WEEK'S 48-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE ATTEMPT IN BASQUE COUNTRY. END SUMMARY.

1. SPANISH PRESS HAS EMPHASIZED SCANT SUCCESS OF ACTIONS OF FOREIGN TRADE UNIONS, SUCH AS ETUC'S DAY OF SOLIDARITY AGAINST GOS ON OCT 2, ITF'S 48 HOUR BOYCOTT OF ALL TRANSPORT TO AND FROM SPAIN OCT 2 AND 3, AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS STRIKES, BOYCOTTS, AND PROTEST ACTIVITIES. PRESS HAS DEPICTED THESE ACTIONS AS PART OF TRADITIONAL ANTI-SPANISH SENTIMENT, WHICH GOS HAS EXPLOITED TO RALLY SUBSTANTIAL PUBLIC SUPPORT IN FACE OF EXTERNAL HOSTILITY. FOREIGN PROTEST STRIKES AND BOYCOTTS MAY HAVE HAD SOME NUISANCE VALUE IN DISRUPTING A FEW IBERIA FLIGHTS (AS OF OCT 6 BOYCOTT WAS REPORTEDLY STILL IN EFFECT ONLY AT ROME AND MILAN AIRPORTS) AND IN PREVENTING UNLOADING OF FEW SPANISH SHIPS, BUT IT REALLY HAS HAD LITTLE IMMEDIATE PROACTICAL EFFECT.

2. FOLLOWING GOVT CUE, SPANISH SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION (SSO) CONSIDERS FOREIGN TRADE UNION PROTESTS AS MERELY A PART OF INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN DIRECTED AGAINST SPAIN'S SOVEREIGNTY. SSO IN FACT MOBILIZED MUCH OF MANPOWER FOR PARTICIPATION IN VARIOUS DEFENSIVE NATIONALISTIC RALLIES BEING HELD AROUND SPAIN IN SUPPORT OF POLICE FORCES, FRANCO, AND REGIME.

3. ILLEGAL CLANDESTINE TRADE UNIONS OF DEMOCRATIC ORIENTATION, SUCH AS SOCIALIST UGT AND CATHOLIC-ORIENTED USO, HAVE BEEN PLEASED WITH FOREIGN TRADE UNION ACTIONS WHICH THEY VIEW AS EVIDENCE OF DESIRE BY FELLOW EUROPEAN WORKERS TO EXTEND CONCRETE SUPPORT THROUGH SOLIDARITY ACTIONS FOR DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION TRADE UNIONS INSIDE SPAIN. IT IS LARGELY DEMOCRATIC INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS WITH WHICH UGT AND USO ARE AFFILIATED, SUCH AS ETUC AND ITF, WHICH HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE ACTIONS. NOTWITHSTANDING THEIR GRATITUDE FOR THIS SUPPORT, UGT AND USO LEADERS HAVE TOLD LABATT THEY ARE SOMEWHAT WORRIED ABOUT POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECT OF A PROLONGED AND HIGHLY EMOTIONAL INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST GOS. THEY FEAR THAT IF WESTERN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EUROPEANS PUSH THINGS TOO FAR, IT COULD DAMAGE THESE SAME SPANISH DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION GROUPS WHICH WESTERN EUROPEANS ARE SUPPOSEDLY TRYING TO HELP. AS ONE EXAMPLE, UGT LEADER TOLD LABATT THAT, DESPITE EVENTS OF RECENT WEEKS, NO UGT LEADERS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ARRESTED BUT THAT HE WAS FEARFUL GOVT MIGHT START DETENTIONS OF MEMBERS OF SUCH MODERATE GROUPS.

4. COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORKERS COMMISSIONS HAVE ALSO SOUGHT TO

CASH IN ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION PROTEST CAMPAIGN. THEY HAVE PARTICULARLY STRESSED PROTEST ACTIONS BY KINDRED COMMUNIST-INFLUENCED LABOR MOVEMENTS ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE, SUCH AS IN FRENCH CGT AND JOINT MOVES OF THREE ITALIAN TRADE UNION CENTERS.

5. THERE HAVE BEEN VIRTUALLY NO JOINT ACTIONS AT TRADE UNION LEVEL INSIDE SPAIN BETWEEN DEMOCRATIC UGT AND USO AND COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORKERS COMMISSIONS.

6. STRIKE ACTIVITY INSIDE SPAIN RELATING TO DEATH SENTENCES APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO EVER-VOLATILE BASQUE COUNTRY. A 48-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE ON SEPT 28 AND 29 HAD A FAIR DEGREE OF SUCCESS IN PROVINCE OF GUIPUZCOA, BUT LESS IN OTHER BASQUE PROVINCES. ON OVERALL BASIS THIS STRIKE WAS REPORTEDLY NOWHERE NEAR AS EFFECTIVE AS THE BASQUE GENERAL STRIKE OF DEC 11 OF LAST YEAR, ALTHOUGH THIS MAY BE BECAUSE LAST DECEMBER'S STRIKE WAS OVER A MONTH IN PREPARATION. INDICATIVE EMOTIONAL REACTIONS AMONG BASQUES, HOWEVER, WAS FACT THAT WESTINGHOUSE EXPERIENCED STRIKE SEPT 29 PROTESTING EXECUTIONS AT THREE PLANTS IN BASQUE PROVINCES IN WHICH EVEN TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL STAFF JOINED AND IN WHICH WORKERS TRIED TO GET COMPANY TO SIGN STATEMENT OBJECTING TO EXECUTIONS. WESTINGHOUSE REACTED STRONGLY BY SUSPENDING FOR ONE WEEK WITHOUT PAY OVER 1,000 OF ITS 1,160 EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING MOST MANAGERIAL AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL. FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL POLITICAL STRIKE ACTIVITY IN BASQUE COUNTRY IS LIKELY TO AWAIT NEXT EXECUTIONS OF ETA TERRORISTS, WHICH, HOWEVER, MIGHT TAKE PLACE IN NEAR FUTURE.

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